

COMPONENT ELEVEN

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

11.1 INTRODUCTION

The pesticide applicator is ultimately responsible for the correct use of the pesticide. Information regarding the measures outlined in a Pesticides and Ground Water State Management Plan (SMP) must be communicated to the pesticide user, industry groups, and regulatory officials. Also, consumers of the water resource are entitled to receive information on the quality of the water that they use. This component describes how ground water resource protection responsibilities and water quality information will be disseminated relative to the SMP.

11.2 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's (SDDA's) Pesticide Applicator Update is distributed to all commercial licensed and private certified applicators in the state (more than 25,000). All licensed pesticide dealers in the state will receive information through SDDA's "Regulatory Alert" bulletin. This document is specifically designed to provide pesticide information to dealers on very short notice (one to two days), and is currently used to provide dealers with the latest information concerning pesticides. Applicators, the general public, and other agencies can now quickly interact with SDDA on such issues as regulations, permits, and general pesticide questions through the SDDA web site. Registrants will be encouraged to disseminate information at the time a pesticide sale takes place and at applicator and dealer training meetings. News releases will be used to provide the public with information relevant to SMP issues. Component 10 discusses how the public will be involved in the rulemaking process for SMP development and also includes methods of information distribution concerning pesticide detections. If it is necessary to protect public health in a specific area, a direct mailing would be used to notify them. Local newspapers, Cooperative Extension Service (CES) newsletters, public meetings, and radio are just a few of the other methods that may be used to inform the consumer of water quality changes.

11.3 TRAINING

Certification meetings will update licensed applicators every two years and certified (private) applicators every five years. Many of the applicators (including most Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel) attend each year to ensure they have the latest information. A change to yearly certification may be considered, if necessary. In areas of ground water concern, certification meetings will target specific pesticide and ground water pollution prevention information. Training of the applicators is achieved through a SDDA contract with the CES. The SDDA has provided information at training sessions on state rule changes. Components 7 and 8 of this document provide further details concerning SMP education and information dissemination.